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**Sent:** 6/15/2005 11:15:52 AM  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Connor, Cathy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2005 2:23 PM  
**Subject:** PB Washington Update -- June 15, 2005 -- Interim Report

**PB Washington Update – June 15, 2005 – Interim Report**

FY'06 DOT Appropriations:

This morning the House DOT Appropriations Subcommittee acted on its version of the FY'06 DOT appropriations/spending bill. FY'06 begins on October 1, 2005. This is the first bill to be marked up under the leadership of the new subcommittee chairman, Rep. Joe Knollenberg (R-MI), who replaced the previous chairman, Ernest Istook (R-OK). It is also the first bill to be marked up under the newly expanded jurisdiction of the subcommittee which now includes Treasury, HUD, and District of Columbia programs as well as DOT programs. This is the third year that the House appropriators have marked up an annual spending bill for US DOT in the absence of a multi-year authorization bill in place.

The funding levels approved this morning generally track the levels included in the pending \$284B House TEA 21 reauthorization bill, HR 3. They include \$36.2B in FHWA obligation limitation (up \$1.9B over current funding) and \$8.48B for transit programs (up \$800M over FY'05). \$1.56M of that total amount would be available for New Start projects.

The subcommittee opted to restore the cuts in the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) recommended by the Administration. The subcommittee included \$3.6B, the authorized level, versus the \$3B requested by the Administration and the \$3.4B funded in FY'05.

In the biggest news, the subcommittee only approved \$550M for Amtrak. While this is an improvement over the Administration's recommendation to zero out funding for Amtrak, it is far short of the FY'05 level of \$1.2B and Amtrak's FY'06 request of \$1.8B. The bill also includes extensive language restricting how the \$550M can be spent.

The bill does not earmark any individual projects in either the highway or transit programs. Earmarks may be added in during full committee or on the floor, but rumor has it they may not be included until the bill goes to conference which won't occur until September or October.

The full appropriations committee expects to mark up the bill next Tuesday and the bill could come to the House floor the last

week in June. The Senate has not yet marked up its version of the bill and will not likely do so until after the July 4 recess.

***Cathy Connor***

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